

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Boucher: Defeat 5% Rail Fare Hike



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk, told the legislature's Appropriations Committee that it would "add insult to injury" if it allowed a proposed five percent commuter rail fare hike to go into effect this year.

Rep. Boucher, who is a member of the committee, urged the members to reject the rail fare increase and instead find other money in the state's \$14 billion annual budget to fund commuter rail operations.

"With good reason, the commuters are fed up with poor service," said Rep. Boucher. "They have received nothing but excuses about why new rail cars have not yet been ordered that the legislature authorized last year. To increase the fares under these circumstances would be totally improper."

Rep. Boucher also noted that rail fares were increased by 15 percent in last year's budget, which she also opposed.

"Rail riders have been unfairly hit with rapidly rising fares and steadily deteriorating equipment," said Rep. Boucher. "It ought to be the other way around. When service improves and new commuter cars are delivered, then there may be a legitimate case for increasing fares."

Rep. Boucher serves the 143rd Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk in the state House of Representatives. She is a member of the legislature's Education Committee and Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, as well as the Appropriations Committee.